

## Andrew Jackson to Thomas Pinckney, May 18, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS PINCKNEY.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> General Pinckney's idea of what the terms of the treaty should be is embodied in the following letter from him to Col. Benjamin Hawkins, Creek agent, dated Apr. 23, 1814:

“ *Sir*, The complete success with which it has pleased the Almighty to bless the Arms of the U: States in their present War with the hostile Creek Indians having amply retaliated on this infatuated people the loss of blood sustained by the Citizens of the U States, and by that part of the Nations who remained faithful to them, and their insolence ingratitude and perfidy having been severely chastised, the Government of the U States wishing to spare the remnant of those miserable people who may be similarly disposed to atone for their former misdeeds by their future good conduct you will be pleased to communicate to them the following terms upon which peace will be granted to them.

“The United States will [retain] so much of the conquered territory as may appear to the Government thereof a just indemnity for the expences of the War and as a retribution for the injuries sustained by its citizens and by the friendly Creek indians.

“The U. States will retain the right to establish military posts and trading houses, and to make and use such roads as they may think necessary, and freely to navigate all the rivers and water courses in the Creek territory.

“The enemy must on their part surrender their prophets and such other instigators of the War as may be designated by the Government of the U. States, and they must agree

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to such restriction upon their trade with foreign nations as shall be established by the Government of the U States.

“You will be pleased Sir, to communicate these terms to the friendly indians and enforce on them in the prosecution of the War against such as may continue hostile, to abstain carefully from injuring those who may be returning with the intention of making their submission. You may likewise inform them that the United States will not forget their fidelity but in the arrangement which may be made of the lands to be retained as indemnity their claims will be respected, and such of their chiefs as have distinguished themselves by their exertions and valor in the common cause will also receive remuneration in the ceded Lands and in such manner as the Government may direct.

“You will please sir, to take such measures as you may think expedient to communicate the above terms to the hostile party, and to point out the roads by which they may approach the posts of the U States to surrender themselves which roads you will also please to designate to the friendly party.”

Among the Monroe MSS. in the New York Public Library there is another copy of this letter, in a clerk's handwriting but signed by Jackson, addressed to Col. John Williams, and indorsed by Monroe, “May 18, 1814. Genl Jackson”.

Nashville, May 18, 1814.

*D'r Sir:* This evening your verry friendly letter, from Fort Jackson without date, was handed me by Major Howell Tatam, and I hasten to answer your enquiries. first, the limits I assigned the hostile creeks, who had sued for peace, for their present occupancy, was East of the Cosee 1 river, and north of the road, we opened to newyoca2 Tohope[k]a, and in case the open land, within that boundery was not sufficient, for the present year to afford cultivation for them, then they were to settle East of the old pensacola road, and above the [Kea]legian3 villages. of this old Chenebee, and the chiefs of Talladega, were to be the Judges. I had Cogent reasons for prescribing their bounderies, I knew, it was important

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to settle them at once on the Territory that I did suppose Government would reserve for the friendly creeks, and for those who unconditionally surrendered, and that it was all important to the final adjustment, of the Territorial limits between the united states and the friendly creeks that the Territory conquered, and intended to be appropriated to the discharge of the debt created by the creek war should be kept clear of all incumbrance, by settlement of either by the friendly, or the conquered creeks.

2 Niuyaka.

3 Kailaidshi.

you ask me what portion of the creek country would indemnify the U. States for the creek war. *would the lands on the north side of the cosee, be a sufficient indemnity!* I answer that the country west of the cosee, and north of the allabama, is a valuable country, and might indemnify the goverment fully for the expence of the war. But Sir certainly this cannot be the only object of the goverment. They hostile creeks has forfeighted all right to the Territory we have conquered, and while Justice to the friendly part of the nation requires that they should be left in the peaceable enjoyment of their Towns and villages, with a sufficient, appendage of woodland, humanity dictates, that the conquered part of the nation should be allotted sufficient space for agricultural purposes. Still the grand policy of the Goverment ought and must be to connect the settlements of Georgia with that of the Territory and Tennessee which at once forms a bulwerk against foreign invasion, and prevent the introduction of foreign influence to corrupt the minds of the indians. settlements should be so formed, as to seperate the strength of the creek nation, and the settl[ements] of the whites between them would always kept them peaceble and faithfull. to accomplish this object, I would run a line from a certain point in the Georgia line, that a due west course would strike Newyocka on the Tallaposee, thence westwardly to a point on the coosee river one mile and a half above Fort williams, then[c]e up the Eastern Bank of the cosee to the cherokee boundery, with the cherokee boundery to the boundery of madison county, thence west to the chikesaw boundery, with that boundery to the

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chocktaw boundary to the M.4 Territory, and with the same to the southern boundary of the united states, and with that East to the Georgia line and north to the point of Beginning. the lands north and East of the first boundary is reserved, for the upper friendly creeks, and those that they have permitted of the hostile creeks to settle with them. It only then remains, to be designated, the bounds of the friendly creeks, within this boundary, the ballance rightfully belongs to the united states by conquest, and will be sufficient to pay 12 millions of the debt to the u states, and afford a settlement from Georgia to the mobile and from Tennessee to the southern limits of the u states. Goverment ought to adopt every means to populate speedily this section of the union, and perhaps, if she would give a preference right to those that conquered it, at 2 dollars pr acre of 320 acres, it would be settled by a hardy race that would defend it.

4 Mississippi.

I am truly astonished that Colo. Hawkins is permitting the Indians to settle down on their former habitations. I did tell him the Territory I had assigned them. I did tell him that no Indians should settle west of the cosee or north of the allabama, and I am certain Goverment will not permit them to settle below the allabama. at this point is the strenght of the frontier of the union to be established by thick and wealthy inhabitants, unmixed by indians.

now is the time, and I hope goverment will seize holt of it, to extinguish the cherokee and chikesaws claim within the state of T. It can be with truth said to the chikesaws you have proved to us, that you cannot protect the whites on the roads through your country. The enemy you have permitted to pass through your nation have killd and plunder our citizens, carried off our women and children captives. we must therefore extend our settlements to the mississippi, to cut off all communication of the southern tribes with that of the north, and give to our citizens perfect safety in passing through their country. We must give them a fair compensation for a surrender of their right. Our national security require it, their security require it. The happiness and security of the whole require this

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salutary erangement, it must be done, and they shall be indemnified either in money or land Gained by Creek conquest. Now is the time to obtain it, and it ought and must be had. This then will give strength to the southern section of the u states both in the councils of the nation, and 3 against foreign invasion, and foreign influence, and create a fund competant to meet the expence of the whole war. . . .5

5 The following extract from a letter of Brigadier-General Coffee to Maj. W. B. Lewis shows how the proposition to leave peacemaking to Major-General Pinckney and Colonel Hawkins impressed the Tennesseans:

“What do you think of government appointing Ben. Hawkins to enter into treaty with the Creek nation, you will think it strange but it is true, Genl. Pinckney and Hawkins are the agents appointed, to that vital interest of our State, and no voice from Tennessee is to be heard, after we have under all the privations undergone, conquered the Country and reduced them to unconditional terms, we are not to have a voice in the terms of peace. The thing is so repugnant to the feelings of this army, that the officers have remonstrated government, th[r]ough an Address to the Hon. G. W. Campbell, and hope we shall be heard, I presume that our Citizens in the vicinity of Nashville will make a similar application, this proceeding has been done without the knowledge of Genl. Jackson, and for this reason, we wish him to be appointed from our State to act with Genl. Pinckney.” N. Y. Pub. Lib., Ford MSS., Apr. 18, 1814.